

REMARKS

Summary

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 17-24 were pending in the present application. Claims 19-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 17-18 have been amended without adding new matter. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 17-18 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 17-18 being independent claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 17-18 in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 11-12, 17-18, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hua et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,127,120) (hereinafter, "Hua et al.") in view of Ahmad (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0052505) (hereinafter, "Ahmad"), and further in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 7,102,643) (hereinafter, "Moore").

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method for editing input data, and includes: "an obtaining step of obtaining, from metadata of the data, event information indicating a theme of two scenes sandwiching a position for a transition clip among all scenes in the data and/or object information indicating objects existing in the two scenes; a correlation obtaining step of obtaining correlation of the two scenes, based on the event information and/or the object information of the two scenes obtained at the obtaining step, from a correlation storage unit storing in advance correlation between each event information and/or each object information; an impression obtaining step of obtaining first impression information indicating an impression meant to be given to an audience by a transition clip to be inserted between two scenes having the correlation, the first impression corresponding to the correlation obtained at the

correlation obtaining step, from an impression storage unit storing, in an associated manner, the correlation between the two scenes sandwiching the transition clip and the impression meant to be given to an audience by the transition clip to be inserted between the two scenes having the correlation; a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip; a transition clip extracting step of extracting a plurality of transition clips from among a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, in decreasing order of suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step; a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio; a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step; a determining step of determining the transition clip which is specified at the receiving step as a transition clip to be inserted into the position being sandwiched between the two scenes; and a processing step of adding a transition effect to the data by using the transition clip determined at the determining step." (emphasis added).

When a user edit transition clips to be inserted in data, if there are a plurality of transition clips which can be inserted, a user who is not accustomed to editing the transition clips does not know which transition clip should be selected and the user has difficulty selecting a transition clip which is suitable for correlation of two consecutive scenes between which the transition clip should be inserted.

On the other hand, the suitability of the transition clip as an impression that should be given by the correlation of the two consecutive scenes between which the transition clip should be inserted is different depending on user's preference. Therefore, if a device automatically extracts and inserts one

transition clip, there is a possibility that the inserted transition clip does not match the user's preference.

The features of Claim 1 address the above problems. Claim 1 includes a feature of "a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip." Furthermore, Claim 1 includes features of "a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio" and "a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step." These features make it possible for a user to select a desired transition clip from among a plurality of transition clips displayed with the suitability ratios in decreasing order of the suitability ratio. Even if a user is not accustomed to editing the transition clips, the above-described features of Claim 1 allow a user to quickly and easily select a transition clip which is suitable to the correlation of the two consecutive scenes between which the transition clip should be inserted and which matches the preference of the user.

On the other hand, the Hua et al. reference merely discloses inserting a specific transition effect (for example, fade in) if the relation between two consecutive scenes is, for example, similarity. The Hua et al. reference does not teach or suggest "a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip" as in Claim 1 of the present application. Furthermore, the Hua et al. reference does not teach or suggest that a user can select a desired transition clip from among the plurality of transition clips based

on their suitability ratios, i.e., the Hua et al. reference also does not teach or suggest “a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio” and “a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step” as in Claim 1.

The Moore reference does not cure the above-described deficiencies of the Hua et al. reference. The Moore reference merely discloses, as shown in Fig. 3, one transition effect is determined for each pattern of combinations of two consecutive scenes., and the Moore reference does not teach or suggest “a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip” as in Claim 1. Further, a transition effect set which can be selected in a dropdown menu 252 in Fig. 5(b) does not reflect the suitability ratio of Claim 1, and the Moore reference does not teach or suggest that a user can select a desired transition clip from among the plurality of transition clips based on the suitability ratios. In other words, the Moore reference also does not teach or suggest “a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio” and “a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step” as in Claim 1.

The Afmad reference does not cure the above-described deficiencies of the Hua et al. and Moore references. The Afmad reference merely discloses evaluating a visual image itself. The Afmad reference does not teach or suggest “a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring

to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip” as in Claim 1. Further, the Ahmad fails to disclose that a user can select a desired transition clip from among the plurality of transition clips based on the suitability ratios. In other words, the Ahmad reference also does not teach or suggest “a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio” and “a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step” as in Claim 1.

As described above, the Hua et al. reference, the Ahmad reference and the Moore reference, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, “a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip”, “a displaying step of displaying the plurality of transition clips extracted at the transition clip extracting step together with the suitability ratios calculated in the calculating step in decreasing order of suitability ratio” and “a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step” as in Claim 1.

As described above, Claim 1 includes features not taught or suggested by the cited and applied references. Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the cited and applied references. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Claims 11 and 12 include features similar to those of Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason as those discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 11 and 12.

Claim 6 is directed to an information processing method for editing input data, and includes: "an obtaining step of obtaining, from metadata of the data, event information indicating a theme of two scenes sandwiching a position for a transition clip among all scenes in the data and/or object information indicating objects existing in the two scenes; a correlation obtaining step of obtaining correlation of the two scenes, based on the event information and/or the object information of the two scenes obtained at the obtaining step, from a correlation storage unit storing in advance correlation between each event information and/or each object information; an impression obtaining step of obtaining first impression information indicating an impression meant to be given to an audience by a transition clip to be inserted between two scenes having the correlation, the first impression corresponding to the correlation obtained at the correlation obtaining step, from an impression storage unit storing, in an associated manner, the correlation between the two scenes sandwiching the transition clip and the impression meant to be given to an audience by the transition clip to be inserted between the two scenes having the correlation; a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip; a transition clip extracting step of extracting a plurality of transition clips, based on the suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step, which are unsuitable as a transition clip to be inserted into the position being sandwiched between the two scenes from among a plurality of transition clips stored in advance; a displaying step of displaying a plurality of transition clips from among a plurality of transition clips stored in advance; a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step; an error displaying step of displaying an error message when the transition clip specified at the receiving step is one of the unsuitable transition clips extracted in the transition clip extracting step; a determining step of determining the transition

clip which is specified at the receiving step from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step other than the extracted unsuitable transition clips, as a transition clip to be inserted into the position being sandwiched between the two scenes; and a processing step of adding a transition effect to the data by using the transition clip determined at the determining step. (emphasis added).

In Claim 6, after “a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip”, a user selects a transition clip from among the plurality of transition clips (i.e., features “a displaying step of displaying a plurality of transition clips from among a plurality of transition clips stored in advance” and “a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the plurality of transition clips displayed at the displaying step of Claim 6). Claim 6 further includes a feature of “an error displaying step of displaying an error message when the transition clip specified at the receiving step is one of the unsuitable transition clips extracted in the transition clip extracting step.”

By the above-described features of Claim 6, a user can select a transition clip which matches his preference even if the user is not accustomed to editing transition clips. Furthermore, the features of Claim 6 make it possible to prevent the user from inserting a transition clip which is not suitable to the correlation of two consecutive scenes between which the transition clip.

As described above with reference to Claim 1, none of the cited and applied references, taken either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests “a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each of a plurality of transition clips stored in advance, as a transition clip for giving an audience an impression indicated by the first impression information by referring to an additional information storing unit storing, in advance, intensity of each of a plurality of impressions given to the audience by each transition clip.”

Furthermore, none of the cited and applied references, taken either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "an error displaying step of displaying an error message when the transition clip specified at the receiving step is one of the unsuitable transition clips extracted in the transition clip extracting step" as in Claim 6.

As described above, Claim 6 includes features not taught or suggested by the cited and applied references. Claim 6 is not rendered obvious by the cited and applied references. Claim 6 is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6.

Claims 17 and 18 include features similar to those of Claim 6 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason as those discussed above with reference to Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 17 and 18.

All of the Pending Claims Are Allowable

As described above, all of the claims include features not taught or suggested by the cited and applied references. The claims are not rendered obvious by the cited and applied references. Furthermore, all of the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added, for example, see Fig. 8, Fig. 14 and Fig. 16 and descriptions thereof.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Marlene Klein/

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